

# Probation Forum – Issues Update

CWS/CMS User Resource Services Team

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*The User Resource Services Team (URST) is responsible for maintaining and making available to the counties application user training tools and documentation*

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## PROBATION FORUM FOLLOW-UP:

### March 18, 2015

Twenty-eight counties, CDSS, RCFFP and the CWS-NS participated in the discussion.



**NYTD Survey Update:** The first review for the 21 yr olds ends March 31 and the second review begins April 1. These youth took the survey at age 17 in FFT 2011 and are part of the defined cohort 1. The surveys can be completed in county offices, in the field, or over the phone. There is a \$100 incentive for those who complete the survey. A webinar on ILS (refresher training) will be scheduled for late April. Additional information on this training will be forthcoming. Probation Departments are encouraged to have a SafeMeasures account in order to help them with facilitating the completion of NYTD surveys for eligible youth. Mary Allard will assist in getting departments an account by verifying their status to SafeMeasures. For questions regarding NYTD, or for assistance in getting a Safe Measures account, contact Mary Allard at: [Mary.Allard@DSS.ca.gov](mailto:Mary.Allard@DSS.ca.gov)

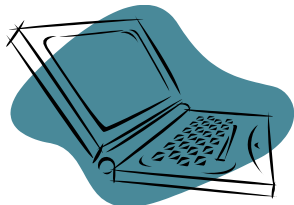
**Credit Report Update:** Legislative Report (Re: credit report data entry into CWS/CMS) due February 2016. Federal Law has changed to include juveniles in foster care as young as age 14. This change goes into effect on September 30, 2015.

A reminder from the November 2014 Forum Call, some Probation Departments encountered problems with obtaining credit reports from Experian. Experian has denied requests without validated Court Orders attached that specifically address obtaining a minor's credit report. For denied requests, Officers are asked to contact Paul Hernandez at [Paul.A.Hernandez@experian.com](mailto:Paul.A.Hernandez@experian.com) with a cc to [Kerry.King@experian.com](mailto:Kerry.King@experian.com). Paul and Kerry will work with Probation Officers to receive the information necessary in order to make appropriate corrections to a minor's credit history.

**Credit Report ID Theft Data Entry Review:** Gina Blakemore presented. Step-by-step instructions can be accessed via Scenario Manager or the Quick Guide Harold Rowe developed. A question was raised regarding the definition of "cleared". Harold deferred to CDSS and ACL 14-23 for clarification. The Training Portal, located in the CWS/CMS website, has been updated with Mapping Documents, and Guides. ID Theft Student Guide is under New User Curriculum. The quick guide will be attached to these minutes. Questions can be sent to Gina Blakemore at: [Adrian.blakemore@osi.ca.gov](mailto:Adrian.blakemore@osi.ca.gov)

**Training Update:** The Resource Center for Family Focused Practice (RCFFP) sent training needs surveys to their Probation contacts. RCFFP uses the surveys to determine the training needs for Probation including Placement Core training. Harold encouraged everyone to complete the form thoroughly. To discuss training needs and/or schedule CWS/CMS training please contact Debbie Rodriguez at [dkrodriguez@ucdavis.edu](mailto:dkrodriguez@ucdavis.edu) or Cathy Groh at [cegroh@ucdavis.edu](mailto:cegroh@ucdavis.edu) or call her at 1 (530) 219-2092.

**Katie A Update:** According to the Department of Health Care Services and CDSS: "The State is currently exploring the issue of whether a youth under the jurisdiction of the county pursuant only to section 602 WIC can be considered to be 'in foster care' under the subclass definition. However, if a probation youth is also a dependent of the court under Section 300 WIC (i.e., dual jurisdiction) they meet Katie A. Subclass criteria as being in 'foster care'."



**AFCARS Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM):** Christina Hoerl presented. Since 1993, there have been no changes to the AFCARS data elements. There are currently 66 AFCARS data elements. The number of data elements will increase as a result of this NPRM. If a six month correction plan has been issued and if data quality is still not up to standard, penalties would be enforced.

What Methodology would be used? Standards are vague.

There is a forum that allows the public to make comments on the NPRM. However, the comment period closes on 4-10-15. Questions can be sent to: <http://www.regulations.gov/>

**AFCARS Audit Highlights:** During March 2nd-6th, the AFCARS audit was performed. Over 100 cases were audited (12 from Probation).

Highlights of Review:

**Race/Ethnicity** – the way Hispanics are entered in system. Feds consider Hispanic an Ethnicity, not a race.

**Removal Episode** – ACF requires the case history of a foster child who gets adopted/guardianship and later comes back into the system be connected/linked with the previous case history. This would impact a number of elements; for example: a child who has been adopted, and comes back into care, Element # 19 “Total Number of Removals from Home” should include all removals from the home, beginning when the youth first became a foster child, not the number of removals since he/she returned to out of home care. Linking the cases may be problematic, as privacy of adoptive families being exposed to bio families may arise. It is also problematic if said youth has had a name/social security number change upon finalization of adoption/guardianship.

**Placements less than 24 hours** – Quick fix (possible check box could be added). The requirement(s) for this change were added to SCR 8607 that is scheduled for R7.4.

**Runaways** – Child is being removed but never gets to destination. He/she may have jumped out of the car prior to arriving at out of home placement and is now on runaway status. There currently isn't a way to document 'runaway' as an initial episode in the system.

A final report will be submitted by ACF within the next few months.

**Home Removal Date:** ACF identifies the date a juvenile is placed in a group home as the home removal date. However, counties have been using: arrest date, the date a juvenile is booked into juvenile hall, and the detention hearing date, as the removal date.

CDSS is looking into this issue. No estimated time of resolution was given so counties were advised to continue their current practices until further notice.

More clarification is needed on Legal Authority Date. CDSS will add this issue to their list for discussion and clarification.

According to ACIN 1-31-11, when a child transitions from dependency status to delinquency status, the Child Welfare Services/Case Management System (CWS/CMS) will not carry over the original removal date information which makes the placement appear to result from a new removal. In some cases, this affects the child's federal foster care eligibility. Therefore, when a child transitions from dependency to delinquency status, it is imperative that the county probation officer/staff manually adjust the “Removed from Home Date” and associated hearing dates on the form SOC 158A to reflect the original removal information as a dependent in order to identify the continuation of the original out-of-home episode.

#### NEXT PROBATION FORUM

May 20, 2015

Time: 2:00-3:30

(877)-873-8017

Participant Code: 933687

Adobe Connect Meeting Link:

<http://cahealthosi.adobeconnect.com/probation/>

**FUTURE AGENDA SUGGESTIONS:** If there are concerns or issues you would like added to next meeting's agenda, please submit them to Harold Rowe @ [harold.rowe@osi.ca.gov](mailto:harold.rowe@osi.ca.gov).